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XI

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1822.

My dear Fanny

I have been expecting some account of the pleasure I think you must have felt at King Lear though in your letter and seem to dread your answer I am sure you will be enough to make allowance for my anxiety. I can scarcely imagine Miss Edmiston in Lady Macbeth although I admired her person but I think much of her acting in for- fear she may be better. I should have wished to have met you at the play house but I never knew Mrs Dike and a cousin had accompanied her

Yours

staying with me besides which there might not have been room in your box and to sit at any distance from you would have defeated the purpose for which I should have gone. for the play itself is not one I should wish to see again. read it as originally written and you will soon see the difference. They say as a foolish reason for acting it in its present state that formerly it was too affecting, but I am convinced that the more people are affected the more they are pleased. Perhaps you may have have heard that Doctor Johnson who saw before the alteration said it was too much

to bear and that nothing should induce
him to sit it out again. — I am pre-
suming that you have not read King Lear for I
think you told me you had read nothing
of Shakespeares. Mr. Brown desired me
to give you his compliments and to tell you
that he has a large bible and prayer
book which belonged to your grandmother
which, if you like to have, he will send
by the carrier. he considers them as a
sort of family relics and that you have the
best right to them. — I think in one
of your letters you said you should like to
take opium but for the terrible penalty

attending it. but I do not see why that should be a hindrance for it was only caused by the abuse of it. So take it – if you can. – For my part I find but one obstacle, one, to be sure that I cannot conquer; which is the taste is so dreadfully disagreable that I who have only a decent resolution for taking physic, cannot go into a room where laudenum has been, without feeling – poorly. Not that I ever tried to swallow it for pleasure but both are will make you sufficiently acquainted with the beautiful flavour. to me, the idea of drinking salts or senna to produce a pleasant feeling is a very odd idea. I hope next time you go to the play it will be to see Richard the third or Othello